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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0820

INFO RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE 0174

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 0417

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0197

RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 2524

RHHMUNA/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA IMMEDIATE 0120

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1062

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000274

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR ISN, T, IO AND EAP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/17/2018

TAGS: PARM PREL ETTC IR MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA DEFENSE MINISTRY: IRAN WILL NOT
PARTICIPATE IN ARMS SHOW

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 269 - IRAN AT ARMS SHOW

1B. STATE 39049

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark reasons 1.4 (b and d).

¶1. (C) Late on April 17 Malaysian Defense Ministry Under
Secretary for Policy Ismail Ahmad informed U.S. DATT that the

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Defense Ministry had rescinded permission for Iranian
entities to participate in the Defense Services Asia (DSA)
military sales exhibition, April 20-24 in Kuala Lumpur
(reftels). This development followed a third day of active
diplomatic engagement by the U.S. and British missions to
urge Malaysian recognition that Iranian participation would
violate UN Security Council sanctions on Iran. Ismail said
the Malaysian government would officially inform Iranian
authorities on April 18. Separately, we heard that DSA
organizers had received this decision in writing from the
Defense Ministry. The DSA organizers attributed the GOM
reversal to U.S. and British diplomatic pressure.

¶2. (C) Relevant Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials said
they were not informed of the Defense Ministry's decision to
drop Iranian participation, and could not confirm this
development as of the evening of April 17.

¶3. (C) We shared this information with our British
counterparts. The British had earlier proposed a joint
demarche (U.S., UK, France and Germany) on the Malaysian
Foreign Ministry to be conducted on April 18 at the chief of
mission level. With the latest information from the Defense
Ministry, the British concurred that the joint demarche now
appeared unnecessary.

¶4. (C) Comment: Ismail is a credible interlocutor at the
Defense Ministry. On April 18 we will reconfirm the
Malaysian government's decision to exclude Iranian entities
from DSA.

KEITH